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HB 2237 MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR AIR AND WATER QUALITY MONITORING SYSTEMS.

Statement for the House Committees on
Water and Land Use
Health
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By
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HB 2237 would appropriate \$600,000 for the installation of air monitoring stations to be located in Kau, Kona, North Kona-South Kohala, and at Hilo and an additional unspecified amount for monitoring of catchment water quality in the same areas.

Our statement on this bill does not represent an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

Existing operations of diesel fired power plants and the proposed geothermal developments as well as the naturally occurring emissions associated with volcanic eruptions strongly dictate that air quality monitoring is essential. Certainly if we are to assess health and environmental effects from these air pollutant sources, long term baseline data are required. It is our understanding that the American Lung Association has an ongoing air quality sampling program at two locations, Hilo and Capt. Cook. Perhaps the Department of Health could establish a cooperative sampling program with the American Lung Association and thereby reduce the start-up and instrumentation costs in addition to assuring continuation of the monitoring already being carried out by the Lung Association.

Monitoring of water quality from catchment systems is also essential for much the same reasons as cited under the rationale for monitoring the air quality. Development of geothermal energy sources, operations at the proposed space port, as well as the naturally occurring volcanic emissions may all have an effect on the water quality of catchment systems. This in turn has definite health related implications. We strongly concur with the need to provide funding to monitor the air and water catchment systems on the Big Island as proposed by HB 2237.